

**Westside Cultural Resource Survey  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Westside Potential Landmarks – Public Comments  
2012**

**Institutional / Educational**

**Former Las Palmas Library – 915 (911) Castroville Rd (at General McMullen)**

- Very modern architecture. On property next to Las Palmas.
- Unique post-mod architecture
- Very modern building next to Las Palmas
- Modern style. It was great having a library nearby.
- Need more art and culture
- Introduction of modern architecture into much older community
- Unique architecture must be preserved! I took many classes of kinder students to this Westside gem. A structure like no other in SA

**Former Prospect Hill Library - 2322 Buena Vista**

- Important in the community over many years
- Beautiful building
- Its longstanding use as a community gathering place for learning, recreations, art, and health
- As a very young girl I walked to the library and learned about the beauty of reading.
- Another wonderful building that served the Westside community children – has no obvious reason for destroying.

**Former Woodlawn Branch Library – 935 Fredericksburg**

- “First” branch library in San Antonio
- Interior constructed for ice making and later milk packaging for reuse in any food process
- Extensive tile walls ready restaurant (?)
- This is a significant intersection and provides the opportunity to honor our history while we revitalize the corridor.
- Major entrance to several downtown area historic neighborhoods
- This was an excellent place for a library. Though still densely populated, look how far you have to go to get to a library.
- At present it is “small world” where my nephew and I have spent countless hours in the stacks of vintage toys. It is very much usable and accessible.

**Bowie Elementary School - 439 Arbor Place**

**Crockett Elementary (MAUC) – 2300 W. Commerce**

- School in Prospect Hill area. Education in Westside.
- The MAUC founded many orgs. in town – historic!
- Great example of neoclassical, popular in Mexico before revolution
- Great regal building – none of these left must save
- Schools built with character and developed character!
- They did a wonderful restoration on the building. It’s not like any school I ever went to.

- An excellent specimen of its style and a tremendous history as a school, Bazan library, and home to MAUC!
- My youngest brother attended in the '30s.

#### **Rodriguez Elementary – 3626 Durango**

- The pride of the Cleto Rodriguez family, especially his wife, Flora Rodriguez, is very important
- Mr. Ruben Sierra, retired educator and former principal of Ivanhoe Elem spearheaded the drive to change the school's name in honor of Cleto!
- As monument to a "first" in Hispanic history. You name a place to honor and REMEMBER them.

#### **Our Lady of the Lake University – 411 24<sup>th</sup> St (26<sup>th</sup> and W. Commerce)**

- Careful preservation should be made...this is an institution that works with a 95% Latino/a population. It also has religious/historic significance to community.
- History of women's education in Texas
- Yes – education in San Antonio
- Thx and kudos to the long-gone sisters!
- Beautiful architecture. Restored beautifully after that devastating fire.
- It's so beautiful for a long time I could not see the beauty of it. Now with the restoring and landscaping, it's great for people to see.
- ...of its architecture and place in the education of the city and its contributions through the Worden School. Also, its importance in the development of the city to the west.
- As a very (?) Mexican I thought I would never be able to go inside
- An important site for Mexican Americans – higher ed. in the Westside and a significant Catholic institution. Great architecture.

#### **Tuberculosis Cottages – 701 S. Zarzamora**

- Has unique style fits in well with San Antonio
- Speak to health/cultural issues
- Small cottages to care for the TB patients
- Remember an uncle came to SA to be treated for TB. Important health facility for its time.
- Geographically, the site retains its importance for the services offered here. TB was the scourge of a generation, particularly among Hispanics.
- Historic significance as TB cottages – unique small buildings.

#### **Estrada Achievement Center - 1112 S. Zarzamora**

- It provided a safe learning environment & meals for many poor immigrant children
- This is a solid building similar to Johnson Elementary on Laredo St.
- David Barkley was born and raised in Laredo, TX. He was the first Hispanic to receive the "Congressional Medal of Honor."
- I attended this school and now I am 89 – good memories
- Barkley or Cleto Rodriguez? – please resolve (who was first Hispanic to receive medal)

### **Former Uptown Theater – 701 Fredericksburg Road**

- It has always been a place for the community, whether as a theater or a church and the architecture is wonderful and not very common.
- Absolutely a visual landmark on Fred.
- Used to go to Friday night “sock hops” here
- Too lovely!
- Beautify (?) architecture. Wish I could have gone there when it was a theater.
- Gorgeous building. Few Moorish style specimens remain. Arts/Film history of city not well enough known.
- Love the round turret façade of St. Ann’s – it pops out into the street corner – not common. Great history.

### **Keyhole Club – 1619 W. Poplar**

- Important jazz club. Integrated audience.
- Great design and Texas music history
- Love the curves!
- Jazz in Westside.
- I remember the Keyhole on the front door. Very important because of integration before it became the law.
- It represents San Antonio’s cultural link to the jazz greats who performed there....Miles Davis, John Coltrane, etc. The Keyhole is a place of musical memories.
- Arts & race integration history are important to commemorate. We’ve already lost the Blue Bonnet Hotel.

## **Religious**

### **Mexican Christian Church - 1501 Guadalupe**

- Mission Revival architecture – important to San Antonio history
- A beautiful building architecturally. It has a long history and is important to SA Protestants.
- Beautiful architecture.
- Beautiful building, taught so many their prayers and good ethics with summer programs.
- It’s important because of its architecture and community service.
- Striking architecture and century of service.
- It is a uniquely Mexican iconic building serving a minority w/in a minority of religious observers.

### **Victory Temple (former Prospect Hill Methodist Church) - 2101 Buena Vista**

- Beautiful windows, very influential in the community
- Beautiful stained glass windows and architecture – reflects an important Methodist/Protestant history. I love passing by!
- Long history and now social service.
- Vital public service during early decades of societal turmoil from rampant drug use.
- Has touched many hearts and saved so much people – lots-n-lots of sentimental value
- Was an important part of my family’s spiritual life when it was a Methodist church

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church** - 1321 El Paso\* BCAD lists this as 1336 S. San Fernando

- Lanier H.S. students and soon-to-be graduates receive a special mass and blessing here
- Mission Revival – significant
- Extremely important to SA families and culture! Please preserve this building.
- Christ the King Church – 2619 Perez is missing.
- Religious traditions are important “los matachines” is one.
- John Paul visited here
- Second in importance after San Fernando
- It is the “cradle of the social justice movement” in San Antonio
- It is the most beautiful church in the Westside. The park in front is also great.
- At the heart of the Westside revitalization and cultural renaissance.
- It is the home of many people of the Westside
- Important site historically for Westside – predecessor to other Catholic churches.

**St. Alphonsus Church** - 1202 S. Zarzamora

- This place was the Catholic foundation for our first generation Mex. Amer. family to come together with our young and old immigrant families.
- This parish is still serving our community. It was one of the first churches established to bring services to the Mexican American population.
- Beautiful church.
- Our church, St. Augusta (now St. Jude) was a mission from this church before we became our own parish.
- Architectural embellishments

**Templo Espiritual Church** – 2011 Vera Cruz

- Great example of a Span.-influence wood church
- Strong architectural statement.
- UNIQUE and architecturally significant!
- Great wooden structure
- A wooden frame structure with a wonderful design. Don’t see too many wooden structures like this anymore.
- By design, fits into neighborhood/period. Unusual to see so well preserved.
- Few if any examples of wooden religious structure still stand in SA.

**Templo Cristiano** – 2304 El Paso

- A lovely, culturally important building.
- Religion was a vital part of every community.

**Church** – 2124 Colima St

- A very important – and beautiful – structure!
- Religious sites were one of the things that bound community.

**St. James AME Church** – 410 (404) N. Richter

- One of the few black churches on Westside.
- Please preserve this church which reflects African American culture, heritage, and religion
- Indicative of the ethnic/racial mix of the Westside
- Important African American church in the Westside.
- One of few African-American churches in the Westside.

- For both Masonic and race integration history – a large part of city’s culture.
- The historical significance of this AME church needs to be preserved w/in this sector of the city.

#### **Church – 1624 (1614) Buena Vista**

- Interesting façade – need more info.
- I’ve always been fascinated by this building. Please save!
- I think it’s a residence now. Very interesting building.
- I think this is a residence now. Obviously a church at one time.
- Westside churches hold the stories of the development of the area, not just in records but in family histories.
- Seems worthy of more research.

### **Commercial / Retail**

#### **Joske’s Las Palmas – 803 Castroville Road**

- A Joske’s in the poorest census tract in SA!!! A very big deal! The big merchants figure out that we are all consumers and begin to compete for our money.
- The whole center should be considered. Very important commercial area for the time.
- Great design, adaptable to many uses.
- The center would make a great art or community center. The city should consider buying it. Lots of parking.
- The Las Palmas Shopping Center was a boost to the Westside Community. President Ford visited.
- The first major shopping center to give San Antonio the “commercial face” of the Westside. A social as well as commercial center.
- Important cultural/commercial history of Westside.
- I grew up watching it age – an important monument
- For me it was great to shop at Joske’s instead of having to take the bus downtown.
- Las Palmas is worthy of preservation – having served the Westside as the first shopping center and site of many important events. I took many a group of children there as a teacher for fieldtrips.

#### **Handy Andy – 4010 W. Commerce**

- My family shopped there since it opened. It was a big store for the neighborhood. Hired a lot of local students.
- Attended OLL and the students love to shop for their snacks.
- This was an exciting new store in our neighborhood. My family shopped there until it closed in 2011. Definitely filled a need at the time.
- Provided jobs for a lot of the neighborhood youth.
- Also important labor/union history here even though it signaled the star of the era of Box stores.

**Building - 3103 W. Commerce**

- Beautiful building in the middle of Westside. Love it.
- Great design
- Beautiful architecture. I knew it had been a lumber company at one time. Don't see many buildings like this in the Westside.
- It was the mid-way point for people living around Commerce and Gen. McMullen who walked to town. You could stop and purchase a soft drink and get out of the heat for a while.
- So little is left of the Commerce/Zarzamora intersection that was such a lively place in '50s.
- Great example of drive-thru facility – beautiful architecture.

**Progreso Drug Store – 1302 Guadalupe**

- Great example of commercial architecture with Mexican aesthetics
- Architecture and cultural office
- A botica and vital part of commercial area.
- Great façade
- Start of Southwest Voters-2<sup>nd</sup> floor – Willie Velasquez
- It was also a botica at one time. The building next to it on Brazos looks to have a rooftop patio.
- Gateway to the “Westside.” You knew you were home once you saw this uniquely tile building.
- Beautiful tile work and a great place for youth.
- Important site in cultural renaissance of Westside.
- Architecturally very strong presence with a record of great community service to Westside.

**La Chiquita Bakery – 1227 El Paso – (formerly La Poblana)**

- Good bread. I used to buy the alligator semitas.
- Panaderias are an important part of our community. Glad it continues to be one. Those alligator breads were delicious.
- Despite links to obesity and diabetes, panaderias are integral to the community and for their history of assistance to Jewish victims of inquisition.
- Nice example of Mexican bakery – good corner building.

**La Perla -1500 Guadalupe St.**

- This place was a cornerstone of the neighborhood. Its hours 8:00 am – 10:00 pm every day. Credit was given without a background check or ID.
- As a child I bought candy from Mr. Smith – owner of La Perla
- Popular panaderia.
- Still has purpose!
- Essential part of every Latino neighborhood.
- Pharmacies and bakeries were essential community gathering places in Hispanic neighborhoods.
- Students from Lanier would stop to buy ice cream, etc.

**Segovia's Candy Store - 1837 Guadalupe**

- I lived close by and bought candy – one of the few candy-making places.
- Bought the candy made there. Important part of SA.

- I bought candy there – happy memories.
- Heartbeat of Westside and SA.
- Delicious candy. Sad to see it close.
- In the '50s it used to be a Chinese (?) store and also later a restaurant in the '50s.
- Important cultural history for entire community. Every restaurant, molino, and corner store carried these streets.
- The family brought a community together thru sugary treats. He spurred an industry.
- Segovia family bought the block and workers could be housed nearby. They bought pecans from local families and treated all with respect.
- Great Mexican candies.

#### **Building (La Alondra Bakery) – 1837 Guadalupe**

- Yes – as a child – some 55 years ago I bought bread there.
- Part of commercial corridor in a growing community.
- The best pan de dulce was sold here.
- Love it – a New Orleans porch!!!
- Part of vibrant community that grew along Guadalupe Street.
- Demonstrates the evolution of a community.
- It was a bakery around the 1940s. Don Miguelito Baker.
- Unusual structure – that is still standing and usable – good example of multi-purpose buildings of the 20s with families living in business bldg.

#### **Don Juan's – 1424 W. Commerce**

- Don Juan's is an important landmark on Commerce St. It is vulnerable to development. Please save it!
- I remember going to dances at the Patio Andaluz in back. My parents went to dances on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- Salon Tea dance place important to Westside
- Salon Tea was upstairs – famous dance hall
- This site was the campaign headquarters in 1981 for the first Latina Councilwoman of San Antonio – Maria Antonietta Berriozabal who served for a decade – 1981 to 1991.
- Did some of my best dancing here as a teenager
- Patio Andaluz was a great dance venue. Lots of our local musicians performed there.
- Once this building came into view you know you were leaving the “Westside” and entering downtown.
- Reminiscent of many Westside structures housing multiple businesses.
- Beautiful music to dance to – Solon Tea and Patio Andaluz

#### **Sandy's – 2116 Guadalupe St.**

- Watching Mr. Guajardo cut up chickens I learned.

#### **Aguilar Grocery - 900 Leal**

- Still needs TLC and a new purpose
- Typical tienditas. Once there was one on every block.
- Important example of community staple.
- It reminds of the past and keeps the hopes for the future within us.
- Nice storefront of the past – need research.

**Chinese Grocery – 3526 W. Commerce**

- One of the last original Chinese groceries. There were at least 3 in my immediate neighborhood.
- Ethnic Texas history
- History of structure and age
- Chinese influence
- There used to be a lot more in the Westside.
- I remember 3 Chinese stores in my neighborhood when I was growing up. This is the last, at least with the same name.
- Fond memories also of Dusty's nearby. Important remnant of not only SA but American history.
- Great front tiling – rare Asian presence.

**Commercial Building- 1203 Guadalupe St (originally 1103)**

- Corner stores like this gave the neighborhood a sense of community
- This is Forestello's grocery store 1903 – Esperanza has all the documents and pics. Relatives live next door.
- Simply by virtue of its age.

**Commercial Building - 1425 El Paso**

- Too cute to let go
- Ice cream factory

**Elizondo Flower Shop – 433-445 Castroville Road**

- Business grew on commercial corridor for Westside community. Three generations.
- It's Westside and supports cemeteries.
- The family service is of great value.
- Thanks to San Antonio and our Westside community for giving the opportunity to serve you with great pride from 1925 to the present, our humble business will be there to carry on. Thanks again, Elizondo's / Alga Elizondo Perez
- The original shotgun house is inside the building. An original wall can be seen from a workroom.
- It exists for our "ante-pasados" who are buried at San Fernando Cemetery. The affordable flowers and wreaths sold at Elizondo's allowed us to show our respect to our deceased relatives and friends.

**Tiendita/Store – 423 S. Brazos**

- The "cube" looks old and interesting – needs more investigation. It is "unique."
- Looks interesting – history?
- This was a store that served many Lanier students
- Another tiendita that was typical of every neighborhood.
- It was reported as Centeno Store back in 1940s. – Joe Centeno
- Stores like this dotted the "Westside landscape." I delivered Bear Ice Cream (Mellorine) to all of these stores with my father John B. Martinez who worked for the old Bear Ice Cream Company.
- Would be nice to have a little "tiendita" open.
- Should be restored and put back into service.



**Tiendita/Store – 1403 Saunders**

- Preserving tienditas such as this one is very important since they represent a vital part of SA heritage.
- Example of tiendita next to owner's house. Quite typical of era.
- This is a beautiful example of a tiendita. Metal siding looks like pressed tin.
- For the historical flavor it gives the area.

**Gas Station – 1726 W. Commerce**

- Unique building of the past. No longer being built. Can be repurposed without being “dozed.” More interesting than current day gas stations.
- Represents a unique form of architecture that is relevant nationally, not just locally. Very important!
- Lots of local character.
- Last of old gas station styles.
- Should be an art gallery.
- Early gas station.
- Many of the abandoned garages became ice houses.
- Architectural significance.

**Gas Station – 550 Ruiz**

- Preserving these old gas stations is an important priority. San Antonio is blessed that many still exist.
- Historic gas station.
- 1979 – PikNik Convenience Store (formerly)
- Architectural significance.

**Monarch Gas Station – 415 S. General McMullen**

- One of the last small gas stations. I bought gas there up to the 1990s.
- Another independent gas station. This is what neighborhoods looked like (before) the big chains.
- I wish someone would give it the love it needs cuz it would seriously be beautiful

**Former Gas Station – 323 Fredericksburg Road**

- When gas stations were simple, service oriented, and beautiful.
- Usable gas station drive thru – well preserved carrying on tradition of ice house.

**M.E. Rodriguez Funeral Home – 511 Guadalupe St.**

- Funeral services for the poor. Benevolent society also.
- Nice arches and colors.
- I believe Mrs. Rodriguez was also involved with benevolent society to help poor with funeral costs.
- If you were poor and Mexican this is where you went to arrange funeral services. It was the “Robert B. Green” of funeral homes for Latinos.
- Important contributions to “life” of community.
- Nice architecture, great location and service to community. Needs more historical research.

**Washington Courts Motel – 3515 W. Commerce**

- Last of the tourist courts on gateway into city.
- Important – no longer make courts such as these.
- Simple/quiet/unique times
- Another essential part of every neighborhood.
- Cultural significance and historical meaning
- The ownership also shows how Prospect Hill changed from German to Hispanic.

**Buena Vista Garden Building – 1202 Buena Vista**

- Popular music venue and commercial.
- An important meeting place for Mexican American social/political organizations as well as an important salon de baile
- Salon - important structure historically and culturally
- Patio Andaluz across street is also significant
- David Blancos artist did a great job!
- Another popular dance venue. It was a gas station at one time also.
- Cultural legacy
- This building was used for wedding receptions, etc.

**Building – 1001 N. San Marcos (at Arbor Place)**

- Definitely KEEP this structure intact/interesting interior, was social center for the neighborhood for decades & basement
- Nice history
- Bookend to residential area. Need to keep. If this building goes the entire block is gone.
- Structure has lots of character.
- “Redeemable” has not been ruined by poor additions, has “charm” and presence
- Favors New Orleans porches!
- Wow! What a checkered past. Important reference to prohibition.
- Interesting relic of prohibition but also areas cherished past (see “West of the Creek”)
- Typical of old businesses and boarding houses of past – good history – need more research.

**Memorial Funeral Home – 1614 El Paso Street**

- Has serviced this community “ad infinitum” (and) “homey and personable”
- Originally named “The Zamapripa Funeral Home” at the same location

**Commercial Building- 1601 Guadalupe**

- Commercial corridor of growing community.
- Was Rene’s “Paris Barber Shop.” He opened it after he returned from WWII. Loved Paris/spoke French and started French club at Brackenridge H.S...has been renovated and will be a mini food establishment (take a new pic) – it’s gorgeous!
- Shows how buildings served many purposes. They were transformed as needed.
- Nice example of home & business structure of ‘30s in Westside.

**Malt House Restaurant - 115 S. Zarzamora**

- Neighborhood gathering place.
- The Malt House has been an important cultural site for fun and socializing – and politicizing! Please save it.

- A favorite for many years.
- Malts, onion rings, and the “fritters” all go hand in hand with this place.
- Favorite – 3 pieces of chicken, fries, biscuit and honey for 45 cents!
- May have history – needs a cleanup in and out!
- Many years of service to the community.
- Great food and inexpensive
- Seems like just about everyone in the Westside has some memory of the Malt House. Place to meet with friends.
- It drove its competitor “Paul Maries” out of business. A testament to the strength of its strong community cultural ties
- Best place to get lunch in the Westside
- Malt House IS the Westside
- Malt House baby – nothing beats it on the Westside – lots of love
- A Westside institution – unico! Lots of history that needs to be written.

#### **Former Pig Stand No. 17 - 321 Fredericksburg Road**

- One of very few “standard” Pig Stand designs left in whole U.S.
- “French” mansard roof in interesting.
- Please save this early Pig Stand. Pig Stands are a cherished SA institution.
- San Antonio icon – although this historic form is disappearing.
- Gotta keep her – too cute.
- Cultural significance of drive-ins

#### **Contreras Ice House – 1617 W. Commerce**

- Provided neighborhood gathering place. Ice houses sold much needed ice before refrigeration.
- If “San Antonio” Mission Revival is original to the building, this is a significant design feature.
- Ice house typical of area – use typical of Westside
- Gotta keep her – especially neon
- Love the penguin. Another essential part of every neighborhood.
- My dad and I used to deliver blocks of ice here and remember it as a friendly cultural spot to meet
- IMPORTANT cultural space
- Great location next to river – typical ice house open for family use.

#### **Rinconcito de Esperanza/Ruben’s Ice House –816-820 S. Colorado**

- Neighborhood gathering place.
- This is truly El Mero Westside.
- History of supporting the community.
- A slice of life in every Westside neighborhood. So grateful the Esperanza is preserving neighborhood history.
- All 3 buildings at the Rinconcito typify the Latino community.
- Vibrant history
- Excellent tiendita structure w/ history significant to Westside

**Giovanni's** – 913 S. Brazos at Guadalupe (former Courts Market)

- Original Courts Market next to housing project. Part of commercial corridor.
- Continued use to the community.
- Was Courts Food Mkt (Mr./Mrs. Belen/Guillermo Hernandez) for 50+ years and now Giovanni's for 21-22 years. David Blanco's "Guadalupe and La Gloria" mural are on side.
- Reuse of original neighborhood building. Good job, Giovanni!

**Ray's Drive In** – 822 SW 19<sup>th</sup> St (1630 Elvira)

- Great food and great meeting place for high school students in the 50s.
- Neighborhood gathering place. Lots of memories.
- Prior to Ray Lopez operating Ray's Drive In it was a beer and pool hall, neighborhood bar.
- Property owned by Ray Ozuna, a local business owner. First operated as Cibolo's Ice House, before purchased by Ray Lopez who worked at Paul Maries on Zarzamora.
- I've heard of Paul Maries. Glad Rays is still going strong.
- A Westside institution. My dad had a ragtag little league baseball team and he would take us all to Rays for hamburgers if we won a game.
- Holds patent on puffy tacos!
- I love it – very good – me and him got something in common.
- A San Antonio tradition – unique restaurant drive in – still intact

**Building** – 1903 Guadalupe

- Black Cat Taxi was its home.
- 1940s and '50s it was the Black Cat Taxi stand.
- Seen and recalled for years but didn't know taxi past.

**Single Family Residential**

**Asian Bungalow** - 218 S. Zarzamora

- It was the home of Carlos Contreras family – brother of Lucille Briseno – Alex's and Rolando's mother. Carlos' son is Jose Contreras – United Way – and his daughter is artist Rita Avery Contreras – Mr. Contreras was a successful businessman who ran the "Trading Post" real estate company.
- Distinctive architecture

**Shotgun houses** – 1115 and 1107 Guadalupe (or 827 S. Colorado Street)

- Scale. (?) form
- Shotgun houses such as these reflect Westside working class history/heritage. We need to remember how poor people struggled!
- Shotguns typical and no longer preserved in many areas.
- Shotguns are disappearing and this is a nice sample.
- As growing up in the Westside of San Antonio and driving to school it is a reminder one is (?) entering in the area from the bridge by downtown and it is a landmark to the area.
- Inexpensive housing. A lot of homes started as such and were added on to, including mine.
- Reminiscent of the living conditions facing Latinos. The lots had a 25' front. Unbelievably small.

- Importance cultural and historic relics.
- As a reminder to the past and poor – shotgun houses must be preserved and used in creative ways.

#### **Forestello House – 1211 Guadalupe**

- Chaffriedo Forestello resides here; had grocery store next to bldg. Italian contributions to the neighborhood.
- Forestellos owned land where J.T. Brackenridge School is now. They donated the land for the school (Esperanza has photo).
- This was rebuilt to look the same when the original was sold to the school district. Forestello family was important part of community.
- Beautiful. The Forestello family were a vital part of the neighborhood. It was rebuilt exactly as the first home that was sold and demolished for a future school site.
- One of the most beautiful houses on Guadalupe Street
- Beautiful home – reminder of diversity of Westside

#### **Carol Burnett Childhood Home – 2006 W. Commerce**

- An important landmark!
- Notable for its former resident, Carol Burnett.
- The fact that a celebrity lived here.
- I'm glad it was preserved for its architecture.
- It's a beautiful design and worthy for the architecture even if Carol Burnett didn't live there.
- Cultural significance
- Wonderful rambling house – rare – w/ great history

#### **Mariachi Connection – 2106 W. Commerce (former Castillo Funeral Home)**

- Mayor lived in it.
- Has painting on the ceilings.
- Agree. Beautiful painting.
- There is a beautiful painting on the ceiling.
- Where a lot of my relatives were taken to when it was Castillo's Funeral Home.
- Cultural, historical, and architectural significance
- Unusual Westside structure w/ historic use in Westside.

#### **House - 2303 Monterey (at Chupaderas)**

- One of the last owners was Mr. Benito Romo, father of current UTSA President, Dr. Ricardo Romo.
- Important relic of German community.
- Nice home in Westside – w/ presence

#### **House - 4527 W. Martin**

- Beautiful. Looks like a farmhouse. I would look at it from my classroom windows at OLLU.
- Great porch – let's party! Don't lose it!
- Looks like it may have been a farmhouse. Next to Rosedale Park.
- I have passed this house for about 30 years. I think it should be restored...It's a beautiful house. I call it the Bate's Hotel from the movie "Psycho."

- Important historic reference

#### **House – 1408 El Paso**

#### **Mujer Artes – 1412 El Paso**

- Typical '20s home – great condition – reminder of Westside history of residences

#### **Houses – 1415-1417 El Paso**

- This property is owned by Arturo Lopez and has been owned by the Lopez family since 1920. Mr. Lopez owns Ray's Drive Inn - also a Westside landmark.
- The house on the corner is very picturesque. Lots of folk art.
- Historical importance

#### **Residence - 1211 El Paso**

- Shotgun typical of area.
- Shotgun houses were the majority of homes built.
- Most common style because of reasons given. I agree they are in danger of disappearing.
- Historical and architectural importance

#### **House (brick) – 1426 El Paso**

- One of the oldest brick residences in the neighborhood.
- A Native-American organization operated there at one time.

#### **Fite Alley Shotguns**

- 327 is important parcel! Ailli vivo! (?)
- Shotgun houses. Easiest to build. My house started as a shotgun and was added to over the years.
- "Callejones" or alleys were typical of a time when alleys were really streets with residences, unlike Northside where alleys were alleys only.
- Alley is a great place for new development.
- Cultural significance
- Shotgun homes are reminders of the past that must be preserved and used in creative ways

#### **House – 107 S. Elmendorf**

- Age; architecture; only house of this style in the area. Same builder as several limestone buildings at Fort Sam.
- Current owner is single – head of household; low income; try to preserve this house in hope of passing it down to her son.
- Built by John Sutcliffe, immigrant from England to SA. Distinctive design. Sutcliffe ran Redondo Tile as owner.
- Too gorgeous not to keep alive.
- Very special structure/has held up well. Built by my great grandparents/was moved to this location from W. Commerce/I have picture of Mattie feeding chickens in her yard here.
- Most beautiful house in area – must be kept for others to enjoy.
- Beautiful architecture.
- I have a book with a chapter in it re: Sutcliffe family history. The architecture of the house is like no other on that side of town. A prominent pharmacist (Frank Abrego [?]) lived there

and raised his family there. Mr. Abrego owned Walter Pharmacy on Culebra (?) and W. Commerce. Since inheriting the house from my parents, Fernando and Sally Lopez, I have raised by son and helped raise my 4 grandchildren. I have opened my home to church activities of Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church for your groups and bible studies. I, as well as the great-grandchildren of John and Mattie Sutcliffe, are very interested in designation the home as a Historic Landmark.

- Before my father Frank Abrego inherited the house, his mother Irene Reyna Abrego owned it and another at Idaho and Hackberry that she rented out to boarders. She had been an educator in Monterey area but migrated to avoid the Revolution. Starting over as a domestic, she raised 2 sons who inherited these homes for their own families. She worked for the Denman family – prominent attorneys – and strove to raise her family to its former prominence. The architecture, with the round turret, is quite distinctive. Includes a spiral staircase inside the turret and the top floor of the turret was a finished round bedroom.

#### **House - 2607 W Houston**

- Not too many 2-story houses in Westside that look historical.

#### **Home of Hannibal Pianta – 242 Cornell**

- Attractive home

#### **Shotgun Houses - Smith Street**

- Shotguns characteristic of area
- Shotguns are disappearing
- Let's hold on to the shotgun houses left.

#### **House – 926 Cincinnati**

- Impressive confluence of Victorian-era styles - Queen Anne and more.

### **Multi Family Residential**

#### **Commercial/Residence- 1000 El Paso**

#### **Residential/Commercial - 1419 El Paso**

- This property is the childhood residence of Arturo Lopez, local businessman and owner of Ray's Drive Inn at 19<sup>th</sup> & Guadalupe
- This property was the homestead for the Lopez family and served as the birthplace for all the Lopez children including original Rays Drive In owners Ray and Arturo Lopez and Henry's Puffy Tacos owner Henry Lopez!
- Vital part of Westside history.

#### **Alazan-Apache Courts – 1011 S. Brazos**

- Yes! Many gatherings, meetings have been held over years to empower the residents.
- Yes! Social, political, philanthropically! Important place to many people past and present.
- Yes, important in history.
- Better living conditions for the poor.
- Eleanor Roosevelt visited original site to ensure the project be completed.

- Its construction resulted in demolition of the infamous “corrales” where Latinos lived. Area with the highest rate of TB and infant mortality in San Antonio.
- It was started during the “Pres. Roosevelt Era.” It was the first in the country.
- Alazan baby!
- Great building – multi-use – has served Westside well.

**Building** – 1805 (1807) Guadalupe Street

## **Industrial**

**Pro Plus Mills** - 902 Morales

- Ties to railroad, commercial growth.
- We fed the world in those days.
- Next to railroad. Shows industries that were important to the economy of San Antonio.

**Basila Frocks Building** – 500 N. Zarzamora (at W. Martin)

- Provided jobs for women in the growing Westside.
- My mom’s job there helped my parents built their house.
- Significant to women and labor history.
- The garment industry provided jobs for many of the neighborhood women.
- Redevelopment for residential use.

**Sien Paper** – 1231 W. Martin

- Could be used again for art center perhaps; could house art galleries/artists studios

**Former Guadalupe Lumber Company** – 1627 Guadalupe

- Business corridor to growing community
- Original Guadalupe Lumber Co.
- One of the original businesses on Guadalupe Street
- The Grothues moved to SA from Florida. They were forced out of FL because of the hurricanes!

**Delaware Punch Factory** – 1619-1625 San Marcos

- Part of Texas beverage history: Dr. Pepper, Big Red, Delaware Punch
- Dr. Pepper/Big Red should see their roots.
- I love Delaware Punch!

## **Other**



**Belgian Farmers Silos and Building – 103 S. Callaghan Rd (6245 State Hwy 151)**

- It illustrates the early history of the area – i.e. farming
- Belgian community vital part of Westside.
- Don't destroy another cultures influence.
- The Belgian community was prominent in the Westside. Farming was the most common occupation.
- The Belgian community also supported the Stella Maris Clinic which provided medical services for poor Westside residents.
- Beautiful silos – unusual & unique must be preserved.

**Elmendorf Lake & Park**

- Part of Lakeview area. Important community park.
- Has important “trabajo rustico” elements
- It has a high concentration of historic/cultural/open spaces characteristics
- Important cultural landscape for design, setting, and important to community
- Beautiful park that is being restored to its former glory. Bird habitat.
- They used to have dances on the platform back in the 1950s.
- Beautiful park to relax in.
- Has historical significance and can be revived as a thriving family site.

**Fire Station No. 10 – 1107 (1103) Culebra**

- Gorgeous architecture
- Ditto!
- Ditto!
- Services the Westside and is very busy intersection
- Beautiful building – stable and utilitarian – still usable

**Fire Station No. 15 – 807 N. San Marcos**

- Just because of who and what they did

**Live Stock Building/Stockyards - 1716 S. San Marcos**

- It is a link to the livestock/ranching history of San Antonio in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries up through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Significant architects and link to cattle industry
- Major part of San Antonio's business history
- Don't lose the last remaining building to the cattle industry.
- Cow's got lost in the neighborhood
- Part of the history of the stockyards.
- Reminder of SA's important cattle drive history – must be preserved.

**Hannibal Pianta Workshop/Studio – 300-320 (320) Fredericksburg Road**

- Architecturally a “practice” structure of early concrete blocks
- Pianta = icon of historic San Antonio/Texas architecture
- A jewel in the rough. Let's save it until someone can bring it back up to the condition it deserves.

**Murals**

*Piedad* – 1202 Buena Vista (on Buena Vista Gardens bldg)

- All of the murals listed are important. I didn't see the one at the former Burleson Elementary – Mis Palabras, Mi Poder. Five prominent Mexican-American women.
- I believe the well educated local artist helps her community through the piece. It stands for the past and future even if you didn't know anything about the artist

*Breaking the Cycle* – 626 S Zarzamora (at San Fernando)

- This mural represents what we as a community don't talk about but should.
- Similar messages should be painted ALL over this city.

*Brighter Days* - 802 S Zarzamora

- Again the mural talks/speaks to the community about something that is taboo. Local artist well educated coming back to help her community.

*Cassiano Homes* - 2919 S Laredo

- It brought a housing project together then and now
- Speaks to the very root of Mexican history and culture.

*Christ Crossing the River* - 1600 Saltillo

- Well it's Alberto Mijangos –
- If we don't support the local artists we can at least a national (?) famous artist
- So many of us can relate to this trip – either friends or family today or throughout the last century.

*Comprando y Prestando* – 1410 Guadalupe St (El Parian Market Center)

- Mary Helen portrays women strong – this mural is a reminder of our heritage
- For so long in the schools we are considering as landmarks, Latino history has not existed and barely does today.

*Dualidad* 1327 Guadalupe St

- He may not be a home grown artist but he was a guest who collaborated with the neighborhood – making his ideas theirs
- Cultural significance

*Educacion* - 2121 Guadalupe

- If the City does not believe in support of the murals it and the education of a community will be lost forever.
- Because EDUCATION is the answer to so many of this city's problems.

*La Historia Chicana* - 411 SW 24th St.

- He is Jesse Trevino, but he was paid and it resides in a place of higher education. Could not the college/university take ownership or be the stewards they claim to be?
- Jesse Trevino is a San Antonio treasure.

*La Musica de San Anto* - 1303 W Commerce

- This represents our heritage in music. These musicians are not played main stream. If they are not immortalized on our streets how do we not know the power of words and music they have given us?
- They ARE the sound track of my city!

*Lideres de la Comunidad* - 1202 Buena Vista (on Buena Vista Gardens Bldg)

- Emma Tenayuca is not known to most San Antonians – a friend from Chicago told me about her. She is just one of many who made San Antonio strong – La Gloria the building held a community – bulldozers took her. What do we do to keep these murals safe?

- More history not taught in TX schools.

*Mano a Mano* – 1919 W. Commerce (at Pinto)

- Largest advertising organization knows the power of these artworks – they created one of their own.

*Our Lady of Guadalupe* – 1547 S. Zarzamora (at Saltillo)

- This is a testament to the power of religion and the murals. We must save.
- Possibly the most iconic image in Latino culture and history.

*Seeds of Solidarity* - 1711 Guadalupe

- Maybe what these murals provide most importantly is a sense of self. A testament of who we are, those who came before us, and hope for those who come after. Because everyday life gets harder and all you have is your belief, faith, and family.
- Because together is the only way to make anything happen.

*Tradicion y Cultura/Sweet as Candy*- 2121 Guadalupe

- The low rider is as distinctive as the zoot suit - markers of a people's resistance to assimilation.

*You Are Not Forgotten* – 1500 W. Commerce (at Colorado)

- Vietnam Memorial/Mural tribute to the disproportionate amt. of Mex-Americans who were drafted from the City's Westside!
- For this country we gave our fathers, sons, and daughters. This artist just wants to remind us of our past for the future does not have to be violent. War is not as far away as another country to prove our loyalty.
- So proud to serve and often without deserved recognition.

*Mis Palabras, Mi Poder, My Words, My Power* - 4415 Monterey St. - Burleson Early Childhood Center Mary Agnes Rodriguez (artist)

*Resendiz Mural* - 534 S. General McMullen

- Popular neighborhood store originally. The carwash remains. Before the big chains moved into the neighborhood.
- We see a lot of murals in the Westside, usually by art and social organizations
- This one tells the story of a neighborhood store (tiendita). Done by the family.

*M & I Grocery Mural* - 5103 W. Commerce

- I remember when it was Ortega's. There were tienditas like these every few blocks.
- In combo with text, this mural is wonderful! Unusual in its woman-centeredness.
- Mural on another tiendita.

## **Potential Districts**

**Prospect Hill** – roughly between Buena Vista, Brazos, Cesar Chavez, and Hamilton

- One of the older neighborhoods in S.A.; still has some very good Victorian architecture; has served the community well over the years
- Beautiful architecture.
- Lots of beautiful houses. As good as King William and other historic neighborhoods.

**Southcross** – roughly from Quintana to Creighton Ave.

- It represents an old section of south San Antonio's past.
- This building (in the photo) received a Conservation grant last year. Windows and doors will be restored in a few months.
- Reminds me of Mayberry, USA from the Andy Griffith show!